

House Bill 245

By: Representative Benton of the 31st

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Code Section 20-2-212 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 salary schedules for certificated professional personnel under the "Quality Basic Education
3 Act," so as to provide that an educator cannot be prohibited from enrolling in a leadership
4 preparation program; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
5 purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Code Section 20-2-212 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to salary
9 schedules for certificated personnel under the "Quality Basic Education Act," is amended by
10 revising subsection (a) as follows:

11 "(a) The State Board of Education shall establish a schedule of minimum salaries for
12 services rendered which shall be on a ten-month basis and which shall be paid by local
13 units of administration to the various classifications of professional personnel required to
14 be certificated by the Professional Standards Commission. The minimum salary schedule
15 shall provide a minimum salary base for each classification of professional personnel
16 required to be certificated; shall provide for increment increases above the minimum salary
17 base of each classification based upon individual experience and length of satisfactory
18 service; and shall include such other uniformly applicable factors as the state board may
19 find relevant to the establishment of such a schedule. The minimum salary base for
20 certificated professional personnel with bachelor's degrees and no experience, when
21 annualized from a ten-month basis to a 12 month basis, shall be comparable to the
22 beginning salaries of the recent graduates of the University System of Georgia holding
23 bachelor's degrees and entering positions, excluding professional educator teaching
24 positions, in Georgia having educational entry requirements comparable to the
25 requirements for entry into Georgia public school teaching. The placement of teachers on
26 the salary schedule shall be based on certificate level and years of creditable experience,

27 except that a teacher shall not receive credit for any year of experience in which the teacher
 28 received an unsatisfactory performance evaluation. The General Assembly shall annually
 29 appropriate funds to implement a salary schedule for certificated professional personnel.
 30 For each state fiscal year, the state board shall adopt the salary schedule for which funding
 31 has been appropriated by the General Assembly. A local unit of administration shall not
 32 pay to any full-time certificated professional employee a salary less than that prescribed
 33 by the schedule of minimum salaries, except as required by this Code section; nor shall a
 34 local unit of administration pay to any part-time certificated professional employee less
 35 than a pro rata portion of the respective salary prescribed by the schedule of minimum
 36 salaries, except as required by this Code section. For purposes of this subsection, an
 37 educator's placement on the salary schedule shall not be based on a leadership degree,
 38 which shall mean a degree earned in conjunction with completion of an educator leadership
 39 preparation program approved by the Professional Standards Commission, unless the
 40 educator is employed in a leadership position as defined by the State Board of Education,
 41 but shall be placed on the salary schedule position attributable to the educator but for the
 42 leadership degree; provided, however, that this shall not apply, regardless of whether or not
 43 he or she is in a leadership position, to:

- 44 (1) An educator who possessed a leadership degree prior to July 1, 2010; or
 45 (2) An educator who possessed:
 46 (A) A master's level leadership degree prior to July 1, 2012;
 47 (B) An education specialist level leadership degree prior to July 1, 2013; or
 48 (C) A doctoral level leadership degree prior to July 1, 2014,
 49 so long as he or she was enrolled in such leadership preparation program on or before
 50 April 1, 2009.

51 This provision shall not be construed to prohibit any educator from enrolling in a
 52 leadership preparation program or pursuing a leadership degree at any time regardless as
 53 to whether he or she is currently serving in a leadership position or recommended or
 54 sponsored by a local board of education for a leadership preparation program."

55 **SECTION 2.**

56 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.